

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MARCH 21, 2023**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT 2024 CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(d) IMPAIRED WATERBODY LISTING RECOMMENDATIONS.

DISCUSSION

Clean Water Act (“CWA”) section 303(d) requires states to list waters of the United States that do not meet, or are not expected to meet by the next listing cycle, applicable water quality standards (commonly referred to as the “303(d) list” or the “list of impaired waters”). CWA section 305(b) requires states to report on the overall condition of its surface waterbodies (referred to as the “305(b) report”). California submits both its 303(d) list and 305(b) report in a single “California Integrated Report” by April 1 of every even-numbered year. Only the 303(d) list portion of the California Integrated Report requires approval by the State Water Board and U.S. EPA. Neither agency approves the 305(b) report portion of the California Integrated Report.

The State Water Board is administering the listing process for all waters assessed for the Draft 2024 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (“Draft 2024 303(d) List”), in accordance with Section 6.2 of the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List.

The State Water Board is holding the hearing to receive oral comments on the Draft 2024 303(d) List, which includes listing recommendations for the following “on-cycle” Regional Water Quality Control Boards (“Regional Water Boards”): the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana Regional Water Boards. The Draft 2024 303(d) List also includes “off-cycle” recommendations for the Central Coast, San Diego, and Central Valley Regional Water Boards. The listing recommendations for the Central Valley region encompass the Sacramento River sub-area, defined as the Sacramento River watershed, including the mainstem of the Sacramento River above the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and all surface waters tributary to the mainstem.

State and Regional Water Board staff assessed data from 1,591 waterbody segments and developed lines of evidence for approximately 20,632 waterbody-pollutant combinations which resulted in approximately 832 new listing recommendations and 91 new delisting recommendations. The top pollutants associated with these new listings are pesticides, metals, pathogens/bacteria, and toxicity.

The Draft 2024 California Integrated Report, including the Draft 2024 303(d) List, and the associated Draft Staff Report are available at the [Surface Water Quality Assessment Program's webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/).

POLICY ISSUE

This is a hearing for the State Water Board to receive oral comments pertaining to the proposed Clean Water Act section 303(d) listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Central Coast, San Diego, and Central Valley Regional Water Boards' regions.

The State Water Board will not be taking any formal action at the hearing. At a subsequent board meeting and after providing written responses to all timely written comments and oral comments made at the hearing, the State Water Board will consider approving the proposed 2024 303(d) List.

FISCAL IMPACT

The State Water Board and Regional Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The focus of the hearing is listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Central Coast, San Diego, and Central Valley Regional Water Boards' regions. However, as there will be no State Water Board action regarding the listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies during this hearing, there will be no impact to the specified Regional Water Boards at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action recommended as this is a hearing to receive oral comments.